

July 29, 2010

GLORIA L. FRANKLIN, CLERK
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Signed: July 29, 2010

EDWARD D. JELLEN
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

10 In re

11 No. 10-44367-EDJ-11
12 Chapter 1113 MOUNT DIABLO YOUNG MEN'S
14 CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
15 _____ Debtor. /16 MEMORANDUM RE MOTION FOR REVIEW OF TRANSACTION17 The above debtor has filed a motion requesting the court to
18 review a payment of \$32,704.04 it made to Union Bank ("Union") to
19 cover the attorneys' fees portion of Union's demand for full payment
20 of its secured claim herein. See Bankruptcy Code § 506(b). Union
21 made the demand, and the debtor made the payment, in connection with
22 the closing of a sale by the debtor of property on which Union held
23 a lien.24 The debtor also requests the court, based on its review, to
25 determine the amount of reasonable attorneys' fees it owes Union as
26 part of Union's secured claim, and order Union to return any
excessive portion of the fees the debtor paid.

27 ////

28 Memorandum - Motion for Review

1 The debtor's motion alleges that the debtor "never received an
2 accounting" of the fees it paid Union, and that Union refused to
3 provide same. Debtor also alleges that "Union . . . has not
4 provided any evidence of legal services upon which a determination
5 of reasonableness can be made."

6 The debtor's motion does not explain how the court is to
7 determine reasonableness in the absence of an accounting or "any
8 evidence of legal services." Nor does the motion state why the
9 debtor cannot utilize the numerous tools available to a party in a
10 bankruptcy case to obtain information. See, e.g., Fed. R. Bankr. P.
11 9014(c) and 2004.

12 Suffice it to say that it would not be appropriate for the
13 court to conduct discovery, formal or informal, to obtain the
14 information the debtor lacks. Nor would it be appropriate for the
15 court to preside at any hearings at which the court, rather than the
16 debtor or creditor's committee, is acting as Union's adversary with
17 respect to the issue of Union's appropriate payment out of the
18 estate.¹ Nor can the court engage with Union or its counsel in any
19 exchanges of information and legal argument, or settlement
20 discussions (all part of the normal process of dispute resolution).

21
22 ¹The court appreciates the fact that it has an independent
23 duty to review applications for fees filed by officers of the
24 estate, even in the absence of an objection. In re Busy Beaver
Building Centers, Inc., 19 F.3d 833, 841 (3d Cir. 1994); In re
Auto Parts Club, Inc., 211 B.R. 29, 33 (BAP 1997). Union,
25 however, is not an officer of the estate required to submit a fee
26 application.

1 The court will therefore issue its order denying the debtor's
2 motion, without prejudice to any further proceedings initiated by
3 any party in interest regarding any payments to Union that the
4 debtor made during the course of these chapter 11 proceedings.

*** END OF MEMORANDUM ***

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